

The Ohio Statesman

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GEORGE W. MANTYREY, Editor.

COLUMBUS, OHIO.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOV. 26, 1861.

The "More Perfect Union."

It is a very frequent and great mistake to suppose that our fathers aimed to establish a system of government absolutely perfect. Their first aim was to secure certain rights, which they claimed as British subjects. Failing in this, they aimed at one single object—the independence of the colonies. Having achieved this by means of a Confederation of the colonies, they next took measures for accomplishing another great object, which was to form an absolutely perfect, but a more perfect Union than they had enjoyed before. True, they used the word "perfect," but admitting of degrees, as more or less. Consequently, the perfection they expected to reach was an acknowledged imperfection. They said their object was to establish "a more perfect," not the most perfect Union.

Whatever may be said of the perfection of nature's works as a whole, it cannot be denied that, to human view at least, they appear full of imperfection in the detail. All things and all creatures seem in this world to be in a process of development—to be on the road to perfection rather than to have attained it. It is admitted on all hands to be the case with human beings. No man, community or people can claim absolute perfection; their works, therefore, must partake of the imperfection and imperfection of their minds.

Our fathers had to form such a Union or Federal Government as the people of all and of the several States were prepared to sanction. Each member of the Convention that framed the Constitution, had in his mind the ideal of a perfect Government; but it was found that no one of these was adapted to the condition of the country, and the Constitution was framed and the Union finally consolidated by a fusion, a blending and a compromise of the views, sentiments, schemes and plans of different individuals and sets of individuals.

It may be pardoned, perhaps, if, in our overflowing patriotism, we talk on the Fourth of July about our perfect system of Government. But in sober earnest, we must admit that it is perfect in no other sense than its adaptation to the wants of the people. The "law given by Moses," though having the Divine sanction, was far from instituting a perfect government—according to modern notions of justice and right. Its perfection consisted in its adaptation to the needs of the people for whose guidance and instruction it was instituted.

Our fathers were united in one object in the Revolutionary War, namely, to gain their national independence; as they united in one object in forming the Federal Constitution, namely, to establish, not a perfect, but a more perfect Union; so we must now, in this present momentous struggle, unite in one great object—not to make the Union our fathers formed the most perfect that can be conceived of, but to preserve and maintain that "more perfect Union" they established. Their work is doubtless capable of improvement; they admitted it themselves; but now is not the time to make improvements, unless such, if any, as may be absolutely necessary for its preservation.

A Good Move for Gen. Buckingham.

We are right glad to see that a move has been made to complete and fill up the parts of regiments in the several camps in Ohio. Gen. Buckingham has given the officers until the 25th to complete their regiments. We suppose at that time all that have not their full number will be filled up. Put the fragments together, and make up regiments. There are Colonels we could name, with parts of regiments, who have been in Camp Chase over three months, and we think we might safely say, who will remain there for three months to come, before they will fill up their regiments.

This plan might dispose of some Colonels, Majors, etc., for the time being, but that would be a calamity which the country could not survive. We know said officers about here who never will fill a regiment, and never ought to command one.

We hope Gen. Buckingham will carry out his order to the letter. It is a move in the right direction.

LT. Gen. Nelson has received orders to withdraw his forces from Eastern Kentucky. The rebel organizations in that region are regarded as broken up. A force of loyal Kentuckians will, however, remain as a guard at Prestonburg.

It is rumored that the Kentucky regiments under Gen. Nelson are ordered to various points in Kentucky to recruit, while the Ohio regiments, comprising the Second, Col. Lee, Harris; Twenty-first, Col. Norton; Thirty-third, Col. Sill; and the Fifty-ninth, Col. Fife, together with Konkle's Fourth Ohio Battery, are ordered to and are en route for Lexington, Ky. They are expected in Catlettsburg next Thursday morning, the 21st inst.

The Gallipolis (O.) Dispatch of the 15th inst., after noticing the capture of Gayandotte and Sedara by the Virginia Confederates, which towns lie on the Ohio river, says:

These troubles now upon our borders are no worse than we have anticipated, and published weeks since, while other papers were urging the withdrawal of troops from Western Virginia, that we considered this section in greater danger than it had ever been, and we now say unless a military force is kept upon the river to meet any probable force the enemy may bring, we shall meet with the same fate as Gayandotte.

The force on the Potomac has been increased by at least twenty regiments since the sailing of the Great Expedition, and twelve more are said to be now going forward.

Appearance now indicate a design to throw a competent force through the Cumberland Gap, to drive Beauregard across the Cumberland river, and to send a grand expedition down the Mississippi.

From Cheat Mountain.

WINNIE QUINN at Cheat Mountain Summit, West Virginia, Nov. 1, 1861.

Editor Ohio Statesman: As the "family interest" of Ohio are pretty largely represented in this region, a few items in regard to their progress, prospects, etc., may not be uninteresting.

The 24th, 25th and 30th Ohio are here; the 24th and 25th being the two oldest regiments on the Summit. We have, in the brigade, constructed and under way, over one hundred substantial log-cabins, designed for quartering troops, commissary stores, etc. When one takes into consideration the disadvantages under which the men have to labor, a truly gigantic work has been performed. The entire brigade have been miserably supplied with tools, not even an auger being furnished by the Government. The only tools, with the exception of axes, employed in the building of this mountain city, were one "Scotch" auger, one saw, one do. draw-knife, and with this meagre supply four thousand men have to work.

The greater part of our lumber had to be brought from a distance of half a mile, and that upon the backs of the men. It is a novel as well as a pitiable sight to see from twenty to twenty-five men staggering along beneath a huge pine, and fairly dropping when they arrive from pure exhaustion. Great, indeed, must be the patriotism which induces men to undergo such hardships as are here imposed, and to complain, with the exception of a few isolated cases, performed. The chimneys are all substantial stone structures, while the buildings are neatly roofed and "chinked and dabbled" thoroughly. When the work was commenced we were promised a "saw-mill," but the "thing" has never made its appearance, and, in all probability, never will—in fact, it is not now needed. The continued and severe labor which the men have been compelled to perform is telling on the health of every regiment, and many have been sent to the hospital from injuries received by lifting and exposure. No matter whether the sun shines or the rain pours, whether cold heavy fogs surround, or blinding snow drifts about them, the everlasting "fatigue-call" greets the ear, and busy hands work on.

One company, A, Captain Charlesworth, of the Twenty-fifth, have finished their "shanties," and moved into them. A jollier, wholerogged and lot-care alone set of fellows never assembled together; and for lack of something more interesting I will give you an idea of the manner in which we (for I happen to be one of them) pass our "winter evenings."

Immediately after "fatigue roll call" in the evening, the boys assemble in their shanties, around huge birch and pine log fires and commence their various amusements. In our cabin to-night, there are some twenty-five or thirty "gray and fustian cusses" assembled, and among them the "fiddler," who, after drawing his bow across a pine knot for want of rosin, leads off with "Dixie Land" and ten or fifteen "pitches" in a vim worthy of a better cause. In one corner a party of four are deeply immersed in that history, the author of which is Samuel Hart; in an opposite corner, two mathematical young men are studying the intricacies of the chess-board, while a third party are shuffling dominoes manufactured from a pine shingle; still another party foras and an old newspaper this time is the center of attraction. Some one is reading the news, and one by one the merry dancers gather around, the card-players look up from their game and listen, the dominoes cease to rattle, chess-men lose their interest and the reader and his unpretending little sheet becomes, for the time, the sole engrossing object. Even your humble servant, who has all this time been perched, like an owl, high over head in his bunk, arouses from his reverie and lends an attentive ear. After listening till all are assured that "Washington is safe," and Lincoln still lives, the dancing commences, the games go on—What matter though the wind does blow and the snow fall, we are warm in our shanties, and will be merry.

To-day the boys were electrified at hearing of a "prospector" for leaving this point, and though our probable destination was not mentioned, the news was received with three cheers. We were ordered for Kentucky to be received there would indeed be rejoicing on Cheat Mountain.

The clothing for the Twenty-fifth has arrived, and such as it is, is very plentiful. The over-coats are a very inferior article, as are also the pantaloons; the under-clothing is very good, and, in fact, but few complaints are now uttered. All that now troubles officers and men, is the fear of having to winter in this region. They claim, and with good grounds too, that after going through so many hardships and all danger for the winter being over, they ought to be relieved, and allowed to again visit civilization. The sickly season is past and many are now weak and unfit for duty who would rapidly recover amid other scenes and change of climate. We have had six inches of snow up here and falling daily.

The "Scotch" at Green Bids are deserting daily, some fifty or sixty having come in in the last three days. They state that their troops are suffering severely, being unable to build winter quarters, not having time for watching. We received the intelligence to-day that Col. Thomas Ford had been appointed Brigadier General. Although many were pleased to hear of an Ohio General, yet had the appointment been conferred upon the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Twenty-fifth (William Richardson), it would have rendered more general satisfaction, as he has been through fire with the boys and has been in gallant style, whereas Col. Ford is a stranger to them in every thing but "politics." More of this anon. Should any thing of importance turn up, I will advise you.

Yours, etc.,

T. P. QUINN.

P. S. A farmer living about one mile from Gayandotte, ascertaining that a Federal soldier had escaped from the recent massacre, took his gun and went out and shot him. The body was found by Ziegler's avengers, and on learning all the circumstances, they proceeded to the squire's house, surrounded it, took him out and shot him. Then ordering his family away, they fired the building, and staid long enough to see it completely demolished.

Why Beauregard is an Open Port.—Doubt has been expressed in several quarters as to the right of the National Government to raise the blockade at Beauregard, while maintaining it elsewhere. The impression is conveyed that the whole country is invalidated by the dropping of this single loop, and that European Powers, patient heretofore, will never permit such capricious relaxations. It is sufficient to say in answer, that the proclamation of the blockade closed rebel ports. Any port passing from the possession of the rebels is a collector at Beauregard to grant any clearance demanded. Such an appointment Secretary Chase engages to make forthwith.—N. Y. Times.

The Federal General's Circular.

GENERAL ORDER TO GENERAL PRICE.

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEPARTMENT, Springfield, Mo., Nov. 7, 1861.

General Sterling Price, commanding forces at Cairo, Mo.

General—Referring to an agreement, purporting to have been made between Major-General Fremont and Price, respectively, commanding antagonistic forces in the State of Missouri, to the effect that, in future, the two conflicting armies, by armed or unarmed parties, of citizens within the limits of said State, for the mere entertainment or expression of political opinions, shall hereafter cease that families now broken up for such causes may be reunited, and that the war now progressing shall be exclusively confined to armies in the field, I have to state:

That, as General commanding the forces of the United States in this Department, I can in no manner recognize the agreement aforesaid, or any of its provisions, whether implied or direct; and that I can neither issue, nor allow to be issued, the "joint proclamation" purporting to have been signed by yourself and Major-General John C. Fremont, on the first day of November, A. D. 1861.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. HUNTER, Maj. Gen. Com.

GEN. HUNTER TO ADJUTANT-GENERAL THOMAS.

Brig. Gen. Thomas, Adj. Gen. U. S. A.

Certain facilities will find copies of certain negotiations carried on between Major-General J. C. Fremont, of the first part, and Major-General Sterling Price, of the second part, having for its objects:

First.—To make arrangements for the exchange of prisoners.

Second.—To prevent arrests or forcible interference in future "for the mere entertainment or expression of political opinions."

Third.—To insure that the "war now progressing" be confined exclusively to armies in the field; and

Fourth.—The immediate disbandment of "all bodies of armed men acting without the authority or recognition of the Major-Generals named, and not legitimately connected with the armies in the field."

You will also find enclosed a copy of my letter of the date, dispatched under a flag of truce to General Price, stating that "I can in no manner recognize the agreement aforesaid, or any of its provisions, whether implied or direct; and that I can neither issue, nor allow to be issued the 'joint proclamation' purporting to have been signed by Generals Price and Fremont on the 1st day of November, A. D. 1861."

It would be, in my judgment, impolitic in the highest degree to have ratified Gen. Fremont's negotiations, for the following, among many other, obvious reasons:

The second stipulation, if accepted, would render the enforcement of the law in Missouri, or any part of it, impossible, and would give absolute liberty to the propagandists of treason throughout the length and breadth of the State.

The third stipulation, confining operations exclusively to "armies in the field," would practically annul the confiscation act passed during the last session of Congress, and would furnish perfect immunity to those disbanding soldiers of Price's command who have now returned to their homes, but with the intention and under a pledge of rejoining the rebel forces whenever called upon; and lastly,

Because the fourth stipulation would blot out of existence the loyal men of the Missouri Home Guard, who have, it is alleged, been recognized by act of Congress, and who, it would be claimed, are therefore "not legitimately connected with the armies in the field."

There are many more objections which are powerful and obvious, which might be urged against ratifying this agreement—in addition to all peacefully disposed citizens of the State of Missouri," fairly allowing the inference to be drawn, that citizens of the United States (the loyal and true men of Missouri) are not included in the terms of the agreement.

In fact, the agreement would seem to me, if ratified, a concession of all the principles for which the rebel leaders are contending, and a practical liberation for use in other and more immediately important localities, of all the forces now kept employed in this portion of the State.

I have the honor to be, General, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. HUNTER, Major-General Commanding.

Failure of the Potato Crop in Ireland.

Archbishop McHale has called the attention of the British Government to the destitution prevailing in some parts of Ireland, in consequence of the failure of the potato crop. In a letter to Lord Palmerston, the Archbishop says:

"The potato crop, the staple food of our people, is gone, and where not entirely gone, is so deteriorated in quality and flavor as to be almost useless as an article of food. On the sad state of the potato crop I can speak with an authority derived from observation over a large extent of Galway and Mayo. Since the beginning of August I have been through the remotest parts of this district, and have seen the potato crop in a state of ruin. The potato crop is gone, and where not entirely gone, is so deteriorated in quality and flavor as to be almost useless as an article of food. On the sad state of the potato crop I can speak with an authority derived from observation over a large extent of Galway and Mayo. Since the beginning of August I have been through the remotest parts of this district, and have seen the potato crop in a state of ruin. The potato crop is gone, and where not entirely gone, is so deteriorated in quality and flavor as to be almost useless as an article of food. 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